

## **Flames, Water, Skins / Ncontemporary**

How did civilization begin? Which system can be found in all human societies? Besides the domestication of birds and animals, what other 'domestications' have build human history? The installation for the collective show at Ncontemporary Gallery in Milan include four works, all a combination of images of various animal skins printed on painted aluminum and water paint transfer images of flames. The sociologist Johan Goudsblom in 'Fire and Civilization' makes a strong case that the control of fire, even before the development of speech or the making of tools, differentiated human beings from their ancestors, and indeed from all other creatures. Based on Goudsblom research my sculptures point to dual factors: fire as a civilizing element, used in cooking and chemistry, heating and lighting, and literally as the spark that set off the Industrial Revolution and fire as burning, as a source of fear, of punishment and destruction, arson, war and death.